



● STOP SNACKING AND GET ON WITH YOUR WORK: Mark Savage at the Village Fish Shop watched by mum Hazel in Main Street, Shadwell

It's the big battle of the high fryers



● FRY ME TO THE MOON: Mark and Hazel

BY GRANT WOODWARD

CHIPPIES in Yorkshire are out to batter the opposition in the annual fish and chip shop oscars.

And a fish fryer in a Leeds street is in the running for the ultimate trade accolade.

High fryers from the region are hoping to lift the title of *Fish and Chip Shop of the Year*.

Those in the running include a shop run from the front room of the oldest house in the Leeds village of Shadwell.

Then there is the chippy which is a favourite with stars from a popular TV show, or the one boasting a customer who always brings her own bowl.

Andy Gray, from Seafish, which has staged the contest for the last 16 years, said fish and chips were now

the nation's favourite takeaway.

He said: "More than 250m fish and chip shop meals were sold last year.

"Fryers are continually improving to meet the demands of a new generation of fish and chip fans."

Customers can vote for their favourite shop from today by filling out voting forms asking them why it should win.

Traditional

Among those to have entered the competition is The Village Fish Shop in Shadwell, Leeds.

The business is based in a stone cottage originally built in 1637 and has recently been passed down from mum Hazel Savage to her son, Mark.

The 37-year-old said: "My dad, Geoffrey, ran the place with my mum for 34 years. He was very traditional and always wore a collar and tie in the shop.

"He taught me everything he knew about frying fish and I really do think it's an art. Dad never entered the competition, but I thought it would be a good challenge."

Hazel, 64, has even been known to invite customers to eat their meals in her living room, which is next door to the shop.

On one famous rainy day, 19 walkers were packed in there polishing off their haddock suppers.

Other Yorkshire contenders for the title include Barracuda Fisheries in Ossett, where one regular arrives armed with a pre-warmed tureen.

Also in the running is the Quarterdeck Restaurant in Whitby, where you can find stars from TV drama *Heartbeat* tucking into everything from haddock to tiger prawns.

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